



CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

TREE COMMISSION

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MAYOR

MINUTES OF THE SALEM TREE COMMISSION

December 16, 2019

On December 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. the Salem Tree Commission held a meeting at 98 Washington Street, Salem, MA.

1. Roll Call

In attendance were: Chair Darleen Melis, Vice Chair Kirt Rieder, Members: Joshua Arenstam, Naomi Cottrell, Curt Dragon, Paul L'Heureux, Rachel McCarter, David Rowand, Tree Warden Robert LeBlanc and Joanne Roomey, Commission Clerk. Absent was Charlotte Enfield.

2. Tree Warden's Report

• Grant Updates

- The City of Salem has applied for a DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant in the amount of \$15,000.00. Mr. LeBlanc received an email from Julie Coop, the DCR Urban Forestry Coordinator, looking for some clarification on the application. This is an indication that the panel is reviewing the packets. Mr. LeBlanc believes that the list of finalists should be narrowed down by the end of March.
- Mr. LeBlanc is working with the administrative secretary at DPS to pull together the financial information for the Tree City USA application for 2019. The four criteria for the Tree City UAS designation are: 1. That Salem had an Arbor Day proclamation signed by the Mayor; 2. That Salem follows the M.G.L. c. 87, Public Shade Tree Law; 3. That Salem spends \$2 per capita of the present population on tree care and 4. That Salem held an Arbor Day celebration. The application is due by the end of the month.
- No new updates on the MVP or the CBDG Grants that will be implemented as part of the planting program for this spring.

- **Tree Permits - 1 Daniels Street:** This paperwork was given to the homeowner over a month ago with no further action.
 - **106 Bridge Street:** This is Juniper Point Investment Co. and they are working on the corner of Bridge and Saunders. They have received paperwork and may request a tree hearing for one tree and will work on preservation plans for the other two existing trees. Presently, they have been told to get some trunk protection in place, which they have complied.
 - On Wednesday, December 18, 2019, Mr. LeBlanc will be meeting with the Salem Engineering Department and the VHB Design consultant as they look at redesigning a section of Derby Street and sidewalk area from Orange Street to Fort Ave. They are concerned about the street trees lifting the sidewalk and about ADA accessibility on the sidewalks. There are 14 trees that will be evaluated, and discussions will include a tree hearing if necessary.
 - Last week, the Mayor mentioned at a meeting that the sidewalks on Essex Street, from North to Washington would be re-visited for some design and renovation improvements. Last spring this went out to bid and came back way over budget.
 - Mr. LeBlanc was asked as the Tree Warden to comment on the planting plan for a project that is underway on Traders Way, off First Street. The developer originally had agreed to plant 55 trees and then the number was reduced to 30 in a set of revised plans. Mr. LeBlanc petitioned the Board to have the developer plant the 25 elsewhere on the site or contribute to the Salem Tree Fund, so that trees could be planted in other parts of the city. His understanding of that meeting is that the developer will find additional locations on site.
 - Lastly, the fall tree planting took place at the end of November, right before Thanksgiving. Forty-five trees were planted in selected sites throughout the city and fulfilled tree planting requests from residents during the past year. Some addresses on the list refused the plantings and others asked to wait till the spring and wanted a certain tree variety. All planting sites were tested for gas leaks and registered with Dig Safe prior to planting. Species planted were; Red Maple, English Field Maple, Pin Oak, Honey Locust, American Elm and (4) Chanticleer pears. Attached is a list of the locations. Each season, the Tree Warden will post a list of the new plantings on the Tree Commission website.
3. **Remarks from the Public:** Mark Tuttle attended the meeting but had no comments.
 4. **Approve Minutes:** Mr. Arenstam moved to approve the **November 18, 2019** minutes. Ms. McCarter seconded. The motion carried.
 5. **Permit Application for Tree Maintenance or Removal – Public Tree(s)**

Mr. Arenstam made a motion to accept the revisions to the Public Tree Permit Application, seconded by Mr. Mr. Rowand, passed unanimously.

6. Presentation by David Rowand on recent SAFE meeting and gas leaks

Mr. Rowand gave a presentation of Re-imagining Salem: From Fossil Fuels to a Green Future from a recent Salem Alliance for the Environment (SAFE) meeting he attended. Over 100 residents from Salem and surrounding communities gathered at Salem's Community Life Center to imagine responses to the climate emergency that could not only keep our city the vibrant place we all love but make it better.

Mayor Kim Driscoll and Director of Capital Projects, Jenna Ide kicked off the evening with an inspiring presentation of what the city has accomplished thus far, from bike lanes to electric vehicle sharing to solar arrays and moving emergency infrastructure out of harm's way.

There were presentations from Cindy Luppi of Clean Water Action; Marjorie Kelly, a SAFE board member and expert on what communities are doing to build economies that work for everyone; Sonia Hamel of Hamel Environmental Consulting pointed to real world examples of building resilient and livable communities and Moderator Cindy Keegan. On January 27, 2020 there will be a Part 2 to the SAFE meeting.

Discussion followed regarding damage to trees from gas leaks. Salem pursues a policy of testing sites for gas leaks prior to planting new trees. Mention was made that Arlington has billed National Grid for tree damage. Naomi Cottrell is working in Arlington and will make inquiries about that process and report back at the February 2020 meeting.

- 7. Tree Manual – General Discussion:** No Editors meeting was scheduled for December so there was no discussion. The next Editorial meetings are set for January 13, 2020 and January 23, 2020 to review and update the Tree Manual.

- 8. Tree Fund - Website update:** The commission developed a motto header for the Tree Fund page on the city website and modified the graphics. Mr. Dragon moved to approve the modifications. Mr. Rieder seconded. The motion carried.

To make a donation, please click on this link:

<https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx?TID=27174>

- 9. Century Tree program proposal:** The commission edited the Century Tree Program Purpose and Selection Process. The trees will be certified for the 400th Anniversary event by placing a plaque into the ground that contains the year of planting and the species of the tree. Still needed on the document is a means by which the public can submit their suggestions for the program (attached).

- 10. Discussion on the plan to educate public about Chapter 43:** Part of the public outreach for tree planting and the new chapter 43 will be incorporated into an annual Arbor Day celebration.

- 11. New Business: None**

- 12. Next Meeting Dates:** January 27, 2020 and February 24, 2020

13. Next Editors Meeting: Monday, January 13, 7 PM and Thursday, January 23, 7 PM

14. Adjournment

Mr. Rieder made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Arenstam. The motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Roomey
Commission Clerk